

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rectal insertion device ~~[[1]]~~ for the treatment of disorders of the digestive tract of a human or animal patient comprising:

a forward section ~~[[8]]~~ which in an operative position of the device is disposed in the anal canal of the patient; and

a first passageway ~~[[9]]~~ which extends rearwardly in the device from a first forward opening ~~[[11]]~~ in the forward section; ~~characterised in that the device further comprises~~

a rearward section ~~[[3]]~~ having a forward end which in the operative position is disposed extra-corporeally; and

a second passageway ~~[[4]]~~ which extends rearwardly in the device from a second forward opening ~~[[7]]~~ in the forward end of the rearward section, said second forward opening in the operative position thereby acting to catch faeces discharged from the anal canal not caught in the first passageway,

wherein the first passageway communicates with the second passageway.

2. (Currently Amended) A rectal insertion device ~~[[1]]~~ for the treatment of disorders of the digestive tract of a human or animal patient, said device comprising:

a forward section ~~[[8]]~~ which is intended to be inserted into the anal canal of the patient; and

a first passageway ~~[[9]]~~ which extends in the device from a first forward opening ~~[[11]]~~ in the forward section; ~~characterised in that it further comprises~~

a rearward section [(3),] having a forward end presenting a second forward opening [(7)] intended to be extra-corporeally in use, said second forward opening [(7)] being arranged rearwardly from the first forward opening, [(11)] so that said second forward opening in the operative position thereby acts to catch faeces discharged from the anal canal not caught in the first passageway,

wherein the first passageway communicates with the second passageway.

3. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rearward section [(3)] comprises a, preferably a rearwardly extending, second passageway [(4)] being connected to the second opening [(7)].

4. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein in an operative position of the device the forward end of the rearward section [(3)] abuts with the anus of the patient.

5. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1 or 3, wherein the first and second passageways [(9, 4)] are substantially co-axially arranged.

6. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward end of the rearward section [(3)] has a transverse dimension greater

than the transverse dimension of the forward section [(8)], the forward section [(8)] extending forwardly from the forward end of the rearward section [(3)].

7. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward section [(8)] and rearward section [(3)] are co-axially arranged.

8. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward section [(8)] is arranged parallel but radially displaced relative to the rearward section [(3)].

9. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the second forward opening [(7)] is in the form of an annular opening formed around the forward section [(8)].

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) [A] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim [(10)] 1 or 2, wherein the first passageway [(9)] has a rearward opening debouching inside the second passageway [(4)].

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rearward section [[3]] of the device comprises a tubular element ~~(3)~~, preferably having an open-ended axial lumen.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the device comprises an elongate shaft [[5]] having a forward portion [[8]] which presents the forward section of the device and a rearward portion which extends rearwardly from the forward portion into the tubular element [[3]].

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first passageway [[9]] extends through essentially the whole elongate shaft [[5]].

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first passageway [[9]] has a rearward opening [[13]] in the rearward portion of the elongate shaft [[5]].

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the rearward portion of the elongate shaft [[5]] is spaced from the inner wall of the tubular element [[3]].

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the elongate shaft [(5)] is attached to the inner wall of the tubular element [(3)] through one or more rib elements [(6)].

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rearward section [(3)] comprises a gripping portion [(15)] for ~~manoeuvring~~ maneuvering the device.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward section [(8)] is more flexible than the rearward section [(3)].

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device intended for adults as claimed in claim 1, wherein the length of the forward section [(8)] protruding from the forward end of the rearward section [(3)] is at least 30 mm, ~~and preferably in the range 40-50 mm, and most preferably around 45 mm.~~

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The rectal insertion device intended for infants as claimed in claim 1, wherein the length of the forward section [(8)] protruding from the forward end of the rearward section [(3)] is in the range of about 15- 35 mm, ~~and preferably in the range 20-30, and most preferably around 25 mm.~~

22. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device further comprises means for collecting faeces discharged into at least ~~one, and preferably both,~~ one of the first and second forward openings.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the means for collecting faeces comprises a collection ~~receptacle, and preferably a~~ collection bag receptacle.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the means for collecting faeces comprises a rearwardly sealed passageway connected to the opening.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward section ~~[[8]]~~ presents a transversely enlarged forward end portion ~~[[12]]~~.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first passageway ~~[[9]]~~ is tapering towards the forward end of the forward section ~~[[8]]~~, making the forward opening the narrowest part of the first passageway ~~[[9]]~~.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The rectal insertion device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rearward section ~~[[3]]~~ is at least slightly tapering towards a mid-section.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for treating disorders of the digestive tract of a human or animal patient, comprising the step of:

at least one time inserting a forward section [(8)] of a device into the anal canal of the patient, said forward section [(8)] comprising a first passageway [(9)] which extends rearwardly in the device from a first forward opening [(11)] in the forward section [(8)] ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the device is inserted into the anal canal into a position where a rearward section [(3)] of the device abuts the anus with a forward end, said rearward section [(3)] comprising a second passageway [(4)] which extends rearwardly in the device from a second forward opening [(7)] in the forward end of the rearward section so that said second forward opening in the operative position thereby acts to catch faeces discharged from the anal canal not caught in the first passageway.

wherein the first passageway communicates with the second passageway.